

30 April 1963

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT: NSC Standing Group Meeting - 30 April 1963

1. The NSC Standing Group met at 10:30 a. m., 30 April. Present were Mac Bundy, Harriman, Robert Kennedy, Secretaries McNamara, Gilpatric, Ball and Martin, Ed Murrow, Ted Sorensen, Bromley Smith and myself.

2. Harriman briefed on the Cuban aspects of his talks with Khrushchev. "K" said that Cuba was not important, and that even if a million Russians were on Cuba it would never be used as a springboard for invasion of the United States. "K" said the U. S. has placed a hundred Cubas around Russia, mentioning Turkey, Italy, England, West Germany, etc. "K" said he had taken out of Cuba three to five times what the papers have estimated but that he would not tell the total number of troops there now because we would just brag about having forced him to remove so many. "K" said they are there only temporarily to train the Cubans and then the troops will return to Russia. "K" said the problem would be much easier for him if the U. S. didn't rattle its sabre all the time. The matter of surveillance flights, either high level or low level, was not brought up and was not discussed. Harriman said Castro was really "K's" No. 1 exhibit and that he was getting top billing and the real red carpet treatment. Harriman says that "K" is not in trouble but his policies seem to be, citing Africa, Nasser, Iraq, and Indonesia. Harriman felt that the Soviets thought the Chinese were taking over leadership. He said "K" looked tired and older. Harriman said Castro was a great asset to the Russians, that they will continue to keep him sweet, that he anticipates step-ups in economic aid to Cuba, and that we will have continuing trouble with the Soviets in Cuba.

3. There then followed a substantive discussion of the agenda paper signed by Bundy dated April 29. The action directive on this will be forthcoming tomorrow from Bundy's office. I will go into greater detail on each item based on my notes as soon as I have the action memorandum.

MSC:lcw

Distribution:

Orig - DCI 1 - Ex Dir
1 - DD/P 1 - DD/R
1 - DD/I 1 - ER

15/
Marshall S. Carter
Lieutenant General, USA
Acting Director